



FALL Weekly Reader

Volume 219, Issue 284, October 19th, 2017

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Oct 19
Corey Proctor
"Power of the Huddle"
– Former Dallas Cowboy

Oct 26
Nancy Humphrey
"Hendrick Scholarship
Foundation Presentation"

Nov 2
Keith Self
Collin County Judge



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

John Caldwell	Oct 06
Justin Roche	Oct 07
Rick Horne	Oct 08
Janis Allman	Oct 18
Jessica Jackson	Oct 26
J. Marc Lewis	Oct 27
Casey Stewart	Oct 31



We gathered on a halcyon autumn day to listen to the District Governor on his official visit to our club. **Sainted Editor Chris Parr** had his priorities right, abandoning us to our fate in order to be with his wife during her surgery. His B team replacement, **John Caldwell**, was out of town, so we had to go far back on the bench to find a substitute editor, with predictably disastrous results. Once again we met in the excessively large and acoustically unsatisfactory main dining room, a venue not designed to accommodate a back-up editor with one working ear. However, for those in attendance, current DG **Rick Amsberry** delivered one of the most pleasant governor's messages that we have heard in many years.

Prince Regnant Rick Horne (final e silent) belled us to order at 12:10 p.m. He called upon **Blair Richie** to lead us in the invocation, followed by **Roy Reeves** with the pledge of allegiance. No one took a knee. Rick thanked the greeter. Then he turned the microphone over to **Rick Kramer** who acknowledged a fairly substantial scattering of applause. Jason called on **Howard Matson** to introduce his two guests, **William and Noeli Biggs**. **Ross Shamshiri** introduced **Francis Cartwright**. Francis was formerly in computer science, working as a programmer in LA. Francis has recently retired to Dallas and is working in real estate. The board of directors approved Francis for membership today. **Hayden Padgett** introduced his guest, **Matt Riahi**, who was making his third appearance as a guest and who had also been approved today for membership. Kramer then introduced a visiting Rotarian from the Grand Prairie Metro Club, Assistant District Governor **Paul Steffy**, who is our liason to the district round table and is assigned by the district to keep a close eye on us. Paul promised to meet with us at least once a month, help us and represent us to the District in addition to delivering their announcement to us. A stealth visiting Rotarian, Larry Flannery, flew under the radar until the end of the governor's address.



Rick Horne reclaimed the podium and called our attention to the fliers announcing food collections (or as a last resort, \$15 cash for a turkey or \$50 cash for a complete family Thanksgiving meal) for Minnie's Food Pantry which must be delivered to Minnie's by November 4. The plan calls for 450 volunteers to feed 3000 families. Rotarians are encouraged to add food to their shopping cart for Minnie's. Rick also made a call for volunteers to box food on November 11.

Alex Johnson rose to talk about the Rotary Youth Exchange. Each year there are both short (3 months in summer) and long (9 months in school year) foreign student exchanges sponsored by Rotary. Alex asked that Rotarians consult with their spouses and think about opening their homes to host an exchange student. The Plano Rotary Club board of directors has voted this morning that they will sponsor a student this year.

Janice Allman reminded everyone about the Plano International Festival to be held Saturday, October 14 in Haggard Park. The Plano Rotary clubs are participating. She pointed out that it was migration season for Monarch butterflies, and she covets any dead monarch that the

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members happen to find. The butterfly corpse should be gently preserved and delivered to Janice who is teaching her great grandson about the history and flight of the Monarch butterflies. She did not respond to a question asking “How much are they worth?”

Rick Horne returned for the introduction of our distinguished speaker. DG **Rick Amsberry** is a man of Plano origin, graduating from Plano Senior High School in 1974. He attended the University of Texas at Dallas, School of Management, receiving a B. A. with honors in Business Administration, a M.S. in finance and economics, and a M.A. in international business. He received UTD’s Distinguished Alumni Award in October of 2001. He is a member of the Texas Society of CPA’s and the American Institute of CPA’s. He is a member of the Dallas Estate Planning Council. Rick has owned the Richard F. Amsberry, P.C. accounting firm since April, 1994. His small firm specializes in working with the needs of small businesses and their owners. Most clients have between \$500,000 and \$3,000,000 in annual revenue, although there are client companies with up to \$15,000,000 in annual revenue.

Rick has been a member for 19 years of the Rotary Club of Park Cities where he served as president in 2010/2011. He was active for years on the Governor’s Round Table, where as treasurer for DG Mark Healy in September, 2004, he cautiously issued the substitute editor a reimbursement check for expenses on the Governor’s Newsletter. He served as an Assistant District Governor from 2011 to 2014. Now he has ascended to the exalted title of District Governor. The only remaining job to aspire to at the district level is the coveted title of PDG.

Rick Amsberry took the microphone from Rick Horne, remarking that he really liked Rick’s first name. He acknowledged the passage of time by noting that he really looked forward to Medicare. He recalled his Plano origins, remembering dips in his skivvies in the creek while coming home from the Plano High School.

He said the recent months had seen him all over the area as he fulfilled his obligation to visit all of the 65 district clubs from Waxahachie to Denison. Fortunately Rick loves to attend the meetings. He knows that all of the clubs in the district are somewhat different with a distinct personality. The clubs contain over 2700 members, both long term residents and new arrivals. The members represent many different careers, different political philosophies and different spiritual beliefs. But the multitude of differences are left at the door of the rotary club as the members come together to do service to their communities. The Rotarians in this country share a desire to give back to the greatest country on the planet. We are fortunate for the great economy in our north central Texas district. Rick works in his small CPA practice along with his wife. He does the kind of work that he enjoys. On most days he finds it better than shoveling asphalt into pot holes. He desires to reach out and help people. People helped him when he was getting started, and payback is due. Giving back provides intangible rewards, warm and fuzzy feelings from helping people and a sense of a job well done. In 1911, Arthur Sheldon coined the phrase “He profits most who serves best.” Service projects performed in one’s community make the community a nicer place to live. Improving people’s lives actually improves the community. In Plano, we don’t see people holding signs begging for money at our intersections. We are better off because we live here.



The social services network in Plano is stronger than it is in Dallas. A project such as planting trees yields decades of benefits.

Whenever we do a community service project, we don’t do it alone. We do it along with other Rotarians, so we get to know each other. One of Rick’s most enjoyable projects was picking up trash on a hot July day. It was a good time together for the Rotarians. Over time, deeper and richer relationships develop with your fellow club members. Most of Rick’s closest friendships today grew out of Rotary.

Rotary touches people’s lives with service projects. Putting a new coat on a third grader who never had one before made a difference. Meaningful experiences made a difference. In the hospital, several people were questioning the terminally ill regarding their life histories, and they asked them about their greatest regrets. The answers were not about job choices or school choices. The aged people regretted the things they did not do. They regretted not taking a chance with a new experience. In an advertisement, a man is sitting in a lounge chair watching cars go by, and the ad caption urges him to go out, get in one, see where it takes you. Maybe it will take you where you didn’t expect. You might have to make some decisions that you had not thought about before. It is uncomfortable doing something new. A leader is someone not afraid to be uncomfortable in order to grow. Embrace discomfort and growth. In a year, we will be here, reflecting on the last year. Some will say, OK, it is the same as before. It was nothing special. But a few will say, we tried new things. We had some successes. It was a year well spent. Rick challenged us to think about doing that. Make it a year to remember for the club.

Nineteen years ago, Rick said he had a friend, Chris Clauson, who seemed to know everybody and who was always there. Chris invited him to attend a Rotary meeting, and Rick accepted. They said the pledge of allegiance at the club, and Rick liked the reminder of citizenship it provided. An invocation was given, which Rick found good in today’s increasingly secular world. They talked about the 4-way test. Rick had the good fortune to attend a great school, UTD, and they spent a little class time talking about procedures. They discussed business ethics just a little bit. You won’t last long in business without ethics. It was an important lesson. Chris followed up and invited Rick again. Then he invited Rick to be a Rotarian. Soon he was approved as a club member, and

now he has nineteen years of perfect attendance. He believes that one becomes like the people one associates with.



Chris continued to follow up, involving Rick in “service projects”. They prepared dinners at the Ronald McDonald house, a house providing shelter for the families of hospital patients. As a neophyte, Rick was put in charge of a salad bar that was to feed 60 people. He received his instructions. First he had to wear an apron that for some reason said Salvation Army. Second he obtained a big steel bowl. Third he had to tear up 4 or 5 heads of lettuce, to avoid cutting and bruising the lettuce. Fourth he selected plump and juicy tomatoes and a very sharp knife so he could cut the tomatoes very thin without squishing them. Fifth he chopped onions. Sixth he cut carrots and dumped them into the bowl. Seventh he dumped three bottles of salad dressing in, and Eighth, he tossed the salad (accompanied by a vigorous animation by Rick.) Rick looked up from his salad and saw that at the door stood a man and woman and a little girl in a wheelchair. The girl was pale and had no hair. The woman was crying and thanked the Rotary Club. They had driven thirteen hours straight to be sure of a place to stay. Rick realized that he had tears in his eyes. His little acts of service had touched people’s lives in a way that we may never understand. Rick still remembers that like yesterday.

Rick introduced his wife Lisa. The district governor’s spouse traditionally has a cause that she promotes. Lisa Amsberry’s mother suffers Alzheimers. Lisa has touted a Walk for Alzheimers, which is the fifth leading cause of death in the USA. (I would tell you more, but Lisa talked faster than I listened, and much faster than my pencil wrote.) Rick Horne thanked Rick and Lisa for a great presentation. CPA’s are typically boring, but this time was an exception. Horne delivered a check from the Plano Rotary Club as our parting gift. 3 phones had rung at this point, reducing the three of us to utter embarrassment and confusion. Rick Horne levied a \$5 fine on each of us. After enduring one of Flash Flannery’s Irish jokes, we were led in the 4-way test and the meeting concluded.



Mike Booher was once again filling in for Scary Bob, industriously taking an album load of beautiful pictures that I would love to share with you. However, somehow in the uploading of the pictures, they all vanished. The worst part is that I am still mystified by their loss, so you can probably count on my doing it again.

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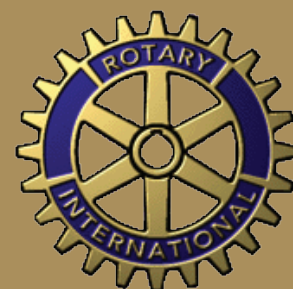
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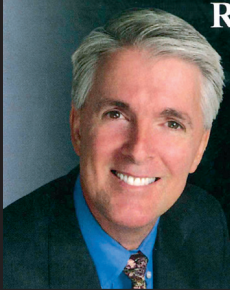
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